

**Wills: My mother
told me never to
trust her.. now we
know she was right**

EXCLUSIVE

BY **CLIVE GOODMAN**

ROYAL EDITOR



**WHAT SOPHIE SAID
ABOUT DIANA**



about his mother when he tuned into international CNN news on TV last weekend. But Buckingham Palace had also ordered 100 copies of last Sunday's News of the World, in which we carried transcripts of her wildly indiscreet conversation with an undercover reporter she thought was a sheik.

When 18-year-old Wills called home on a satellite phone for more information, the bulk of our 10-page report was e-mailed to his laptop. He has continued to receive e-mails and phone calls throughout the week from Zara and Peter Phillips—plus details of the official interview Sophie had given the News of the World the week before.

William is hurt at the potshots she took at Diana, both on and off the record. In the official chat, Sophie sniped: "I don't have armies of hairdressers and make up artists at the drop of the hat."

And in her infamous 'sheik' tapes she and cocaine-snorting former partner Murray Harkin made merciless fun of Diana's tireless work with the sick and the dying.

Talking of press reaction to her way of performing royal engagements, Sophie said: "They thought, 'She's not going to be turning up every day in different outfits opening children's homes'."

Harkin smirked: "Turning up at hospitals in the middle of the night with make-up on." "Exactly," agreed Sophie. William told friends by phone this week: "How dare she compare herself to my mother — my mother was a princess, a grand lady." Referring to

Sophie, the wife of his uncle Prince Edward, he added: "She shouldn't have involved other people in something which was a disaster entirely of her making. The countess thinks a great deal of herself."

An aide of Prince William told the News of the World: "To this day, William is waiting for an apology from her. She seems to have said sorry to every here-today and gone-tomorrow politician, but not to him, and not to his brother."

Tribute

In her conversation with undercover reporters Sophie was quick to talk about the pressure of being put on the "empty pedestal that had been left by Princess Diana".

She even used Diana's death to help impress her potential clients, criticising Tony Blair for the speech he gave in tribute to her the morning after she died.

"It wasn't off the cuff at all because I know who wrote it," she said smugly and added: "A lot of things came out after Diana's death about the way that she behaved. I think everybody realised that it takes two. You'll get fanatical Diana diehards who'll always blame the Prince of Wales for everything—we can't do much about that."

William also believes that Sophie is at the heart of criticism from junior royals about him and brother Harry. "She calls them aloof and distant from other members of